

Criteria for Recommending Future Capital Projects

The following criteria shall be applied to future capital projects in order to establish a relative priority for beginning and completing projects. These criteria are intended to guide decision making and may be adjusted as necessary.

1. All capital projects must support the goals established by the Board of Supervisors and the Comprehensive Plan for Fairfax County as adopted by the Board on October 24, 1988 and revised through 2000 and conform to specified standards mentioned in the Plan. Other County or best practice standards may be cited so long as they are not in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or Board directives.
2. All capital projects will be categorized based on priority and recommended for appropriate funding sources (i.e., general funds, bonds, special revenue funds, other funds) according to their criticality or other standards as recommended by the staff, School Board, Planning Commission or other advisory body.
3. All new projects recommended to be included in the five-year Capital Improvement Program will be categorized by priority using the criteria listed below. Actual project commencement and completion are subject to identification of resources and annual appropriation by the Board of Supervisors.

Immediate: *Projects are expected to be started within a year.*

Examples of such projects may exhibit the following criteria:

- Eliminate an immediate threat to personal and public safety.
- Alleviate immediate threats to property or the environment.
- Respond to a court order or comply with approved Federal or State legislation.

Near Term: *Projects are expected to start within the next 2–3 years.*

Examples of such projects may exhibit the following criteria:

- Have significant Federal or State commitment.
- Preserve existing resources or realize significant return on investment.
- Preserve previous capital investment or restore capital facilities to adequate operating condition.
- Respond to Federal or State mandates in compliance with extended implementation schedules.
- Generate significant revenue, are self supporting or generate cost avoidance (return on investment and/or improved efficiency)
- Alleviate existing overcrowded conditions that directly contribute to the deterioration of quality public services.

Long Term: *Projects are expected to begin within the next 4–5 years.*

Examples of such projects may exhibit the following criteria:

- Accommodate projected increases in demand for public services and facilities.
- Maintain support for public services identified by citizens or appointed Boards and Commissions as a priority in furtherance of the goals and objectives established by the Comprehensive Plan.
- Meet new program goals or respond to new technology.

Future Projects: *Projects that are anticipated, but not scheduled within the five-year planning period.*